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Chamber of Commerce Honors Doctor, Bowler; Hears Talk on Industry Bait

Citizen of Year: Dr. W. G. C. Kenny

Entire text of the introduction to Dr. W. G. C. Kenny the town's Citizen of the Year, follows. It was read last night (Wednesday) at the Chamber of Commerce banquet before the well-loved family doctor was presented with a beautiful engraved plaque.

DR. W. G. C. KENNEY Acton's Outstanding Citizen

Chamber of Commerce Dinner, April 27th, 1950

Dr. W. G. C. Kenny comes from a family which has been associated with Acton for the past 102 years. His grandparents were both citizens of Northern Ireland. He is a major of interest that he was born here on the night that Sir John A. MacDonald died.

Bill Kenney received his early education in local schools and left High School at an early age to accept work at the Free Press as a printer's devil. At that time he was a member of the local band for a number of years. Following a few years of employment with the Free Press, he went west and located north of Winnipeg and engaged in surveying work. Later he worked as a farm hand in the Hartney district of Manitoba. Eventually he returned to Ontario and entered the Ontario Veterinary College, then located in Toronto, and from this institution he graduated in 1915. Shortly thereafter he enlisted in the Canadian Army and went overseas with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. He saw service in England, France, Belgium, Egypt and Palestine for the next four and a half years. Dr. Kenney was a conscientious soldier and served as Veterinary Officer in charge of composite forces in the third battle of Gaza. It should be recalled that Dr. Kenney was himself an excellent marksman and at the Niagara Camp in 1910 where 10,000 soldiers competed he placed first in rifle shooting.

At the battle of Gaza Dr. Kenney was wounded and invalidated back to England. He remained there until 1919 where he returned to Canada.

At this juncture veterinary service was not in particular demand and this caused Dr. Kenney to turn to the field of endeavours in which he had become increasingly interested. In 1920 he entered medical school in Toronto and graduated in 1926. The following year he wrote and passed the examination in Montreal which entitled him to practise medicine anywhere in Canada. When he played with the Canadian Officers Training Corps band at the university, he took the first U. of T. band to the rugby games at Varsity stadium.

For the next three years he was a doctor in The Sick Children's Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, during which time he engaged in a considerable amount of surgery. He was senior house doctor in gynaecology and obstetrics at Toronto General Hospital and was associated with the Toronto College of Obstetrics. Following this he practised in several medical clinics in Ontario before opening a practice in Newmarket where he remained for sixteen months. Following this he practised in Bracebridge for a considerable time. While he was at Bracebridge there broke out a severe epidemic of polio and Dr. Kenney went with scarcely any sleep for weeks in order to look after his patients.

In the late thirties Dr. Kenney himself was stricken with an illness which threatened to discontinue his career altogether. He returned to Acton and for three years endured the trial of insecure health. However, he gradually regained his strength and began practice in Acton on November 18th 1941 and it is most interesting that since that time he has brought over eight hundred babies to the world in this area. He was Medical Officer of Health in Acton for several years.

While Dr. Kenney chooses to think that he has just been "doing his job" the Chamber of Commerce in Acton is inclined to believe that he has performed a tremendous service to a host of people in this area during the past two decades. During that time Dr. Kenney has devoted his time and professional skill to the people of Acton in many, many instances, even beyond the call of duty.

We do not intend here to give a lengthy and detailed catalogue of his services to the people of the community. Suffice it is to say that any person who really is acquainted with the good Doctor will have a list of his own.

So, for Dr. Kenney's dedication to the medical profession, his philanthropic works and his humanitarian service to the people of Acton, we are pleased to recognize him and honour him as Acton's Citizen of the Year.

Warmest appreciation for dedicated service of the "citizen of the year", recognition of a champion bowler and pertinent advice on the acquiring of new industries highlighted the annual dinner of the Chamber of Commerce in the Robert Little school auditorium last night (Wednesday).

About 150 applauded the choice of Dr. W. G. C. Kenney as the town's citizen of the year. George Barbeau read an outline of the doctor's varied career (which appears in full elsewhere) and Dr. Kenney accepted the engraved plaque with a simple "Thank you." Mrs. Barbeau presented a bouquet of red roses to him for Mrs. Kenney.

Locket for Bowler
An engraved locket was presented by Bert Wood to Gayle Hulford, whose bowling prowess has won recognition throughout the country. "I'm sure I am going to cherish it for the rest of my life," she said. "There's not much I can say except thanks an awful lot—and to mum and dad, God bless you."

The long tables were decorated with C. of C. place mats and serviettes, as the crowd enjoyed the delicious turkey dinner served by the Guild of St. Alban's church under the convenship of Mrs. Barbeau.

Head table guests were Ted Tyler, Chamber president, Mr. Barbeau, Chamber president, Mr. Barbeau, J. Bert Wood, secretary and Mrs. Wood, Walter Woodburn, treasurer, and Mrs. Woodburn, Norm Braida, chairman of the industrial committee, Bill Benson, chairman of the retail section, Mayor Johnny Goy, Miss Hulford, Dr. Kenney and the guest speaker, W. H. Evans of Toronto.

Mr. Tyler welcomed the guests and pointed out the event was again being held during Chamber of Commerce week. Mr. Woodburn, who had heard Mr. Evans speak in Toronto, had arranged for him to come to Acton, the town where he was born and left as a child. He told that Mr. Evans is currently president of the Chamber of Commerce in Toronto.

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No community scores 100 marks on all points, he assured his listeners. "But a good policy pays big dividends."

After Norm Braida expressed the group's thanks and made a presentation, Mr. Evans left for another engagement in Toronto, amidst enthusiastic applause.

Form Town Character
Mayor Goy assured the group the Chamber of Commerce plays an important part in forming the character of this town.

New members welcomed were Dorwin McBrice of Acton Dry Cleaning, Dennis O'Brien of Refrigeration Services, now in the Wood-Cumby plant, and Vic Masters, president of the Minor Sports Association. They were introduced by Orville Chapman and given certificates and C. of C. window stickers.

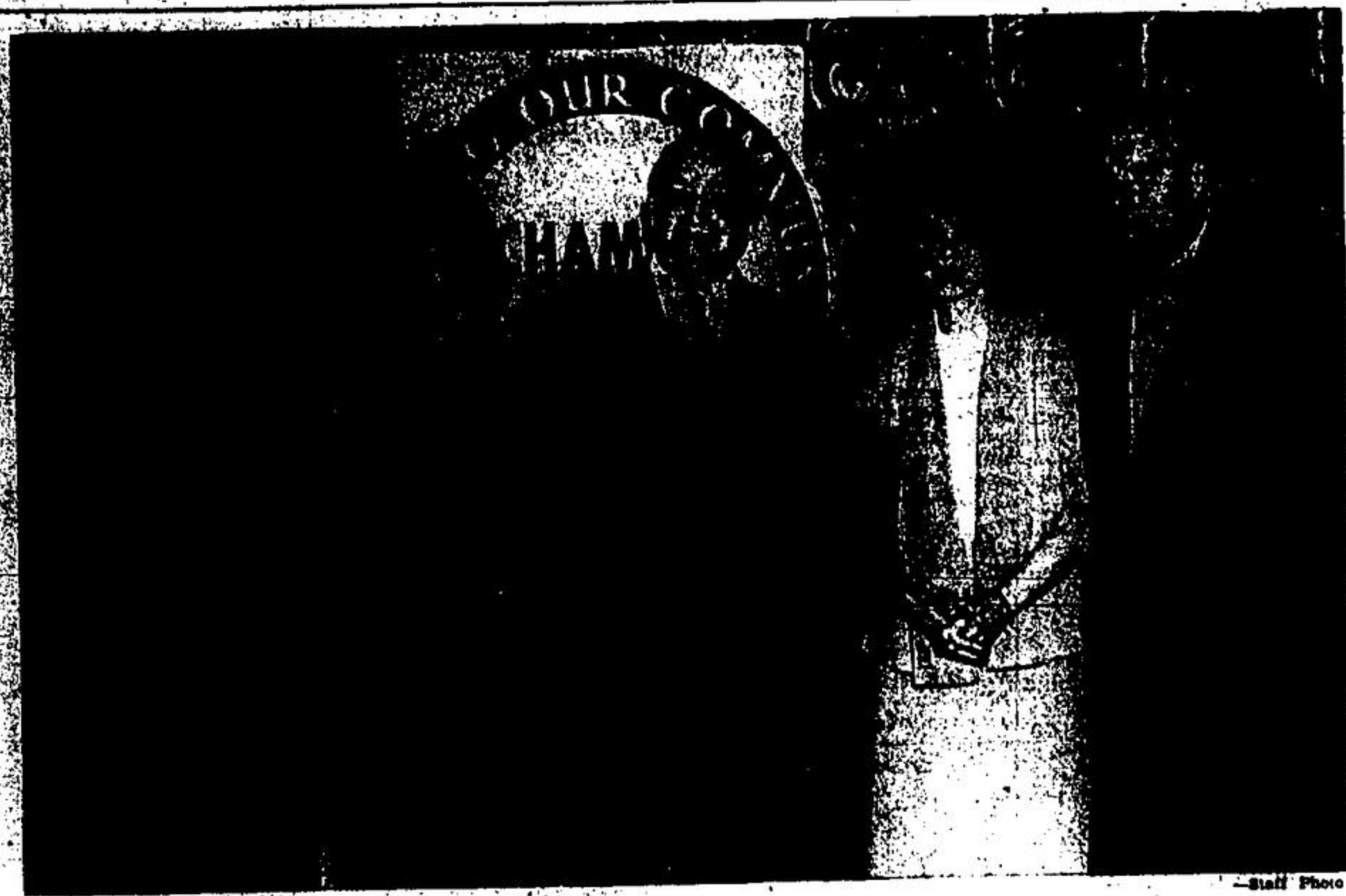
Jim Ledger pointed out music played during the evening came from the attractive walnut two-piece full stereo record player and AM-FM radio, which is to be raffled by the Chamber. Arrangements were made for selling tickets at the IGA store on the weekend.

While Mr. Ledger was at the microphone he formally presented Mr. Barbeau with a huge cartoon—a gift to help him out during the coming boating season. Unwrapped—an old patched inner tube.

United Church Start Expected Any Time Now
Work on the new \$55,787.94 United Church sanctuary to include furnishings is expected to begin any day now, building chairman Al Long reported this week.

The contract was let to J. B. Mackenzie and Son for the building at a tender price of \$48,787.94. In addition to this all new furnishings will be provided at a cost of \$7,000. A further charge for the architect's fee for supervision of the structure is also expected.

The new building will be erected on top of the present basement now used for Sunday school classes.



HONORED GUESTS and officials are pictured above during the Chamber of Commerce Community Night dinner. Left to right are president E. G. Tyler, Gayle Hulford, bowling star who was honored by the Chamber, Dr. W. G. C. Kenney, named "Citizen of the Year", Mrs. G. V. Barbeau, who presented a bouquet of red roses for Mrs. Kenney and G. V. Barbeau, who introduced Dr. Kenney. The dinner meeting was staged in the auditorium of the Robert Little public school Wednesday night.

Council Eyes Water Line Extension Considers Future Storage System

Extension of existing water lines and the installation of a water storage system, which have been under the watchful eyes of council, received another shot in the arm Tuesday night when council authorized the consulting engineers to provide the town with an estimated cost of providing this service.

The problem of connecting dead ends in the water lines and providing either an underground or overhead water storage system has been reviewed by the sewer and water committee many times. After learning that continuing existing water lines on Queen Street east under the CNR tracks would cost close to \$12,000, it was decided to review the project again.

During the Monday night committee of the whole meeting Mayor J. Goy told council consideration was being given to connecting the Churchill Road water line with the mains on Main Street, by cutting across the land north of Warren Grove.

He pointed out that the town already owned property near the H. K. Porter land and could open a road up from Main Street north to the end of this property. Continuation of this road to Churchill Road north could be made possible as well, council learned.

The nod of approval was given for the engineers to provide the town with estimates for this project.

To Sell Old Ambulance
The welfare committee was given the green light to advertise for sale the former town ambulance which has been in storage since council adopted the present ambulance service.

Formation of a safety council in Acton received council approval. The clerk was instructed to contact jeweller Don Bexton who is interested in the formation of the safety council. Council reviewed a lengthy report from town assessor J. LaDouceur which included activities to date.

Council accepted the recommendation of the Planning Board and refused a building permit to Thomas and Thomas for erection of a home on lot No. 38 in Glenlea subdivision. Request for a permit had been turned down by the board when they ruled building on this lot did not comply with the town's zoning by-law.

Speak Now

A planning board public hearing is being held tonight in the council chamber. Purpose of the hearing is to receive submissions for and against a change in the zoning by-law to permit the erection of a Bell Telephone dial exchange building on the corner of Church and Elgin Streets.

Property owners in the immediate vicinity have been notified of the hearing. Any ratepayer may attend and express his or her views on the subject. After the hearing, Council may then apply to the Ontario Municipal Board for permission to amend the zoning by-law.

At Photo Fair

Richard Harris, Rockwood, Free Press correspondent and ardent photographer attended the Photo Fair in the Queen Elizabeth Building at the G.N.E. grounds this week.

Many of Mr. Harris' pictures have won prizes in various contests and have been on display at the Free Press different times.

Bank Robbers Sentenced To 10 Years in Kingston

The two men arrested for theft of \$4,056 during an armed robbery at the Royal Bank at Hillsburgh, April 12, were sentenced to 10 years apiece in Kingston Reformatory, when they appeared in Guelph Police Court last week.

Arrested an hour and 10 minutes after the robbery took place were Robert Donnet, 31 and Garfield Ridout, 21, both of Bolton.

Wave Gens
The two men entered the bank shortly after the noon opening and waving a rifle and revolver, scooped the money from the cash drawer and after shutting the manager and three members of his staff in the vault made their getaway in a car parked near the bank.

Police were alerted and the men were captured in the getaway car between Balgavay and Bolton, when a cruiser forced their car off the road.

The alertness of Mrs. E. Dymek, who operates a grocery store in the village, when she made a mental note of the car's license plates, aided the police in tracking down the two men.

H. and S. Discussion

Few Workers Bear Big Burden Served Township 25 Years

Whole Community Should Share Council Honors A. W. Benton

The Amalgamated Home and School Association April meeting held in the high school auditorium Monday evening featured a film discussion program.

Leslie on behalf of Esqueping council, Mrs. Benton was cited for her splendid co-operation in allowing her husband to spend many hours at his work and was presented with a bouquet of flowers by councillor George Lespe.

A lot of people join organizations because they are afraid to say "no" but through lack of conviction and enthusiasm, they fall by the wayside.

Some people aren't communally minded enough to fall into the spirit of it.

Sometimes the over-zeal approach of an enthusiast can turn a person away from accepting the responsibility of taking a leadership role in the community.

Likewise the despaired approach of others can also turn people away.

The earlier part of the evening was given over to general business. It was considered a wise course to refrain an amalgamated group working in unity.

Mrs. Lionel Hurst, chairman of the nominating committee, spoke of the problem they were experiencing in trying to find a full slate of officers for the coming year.

Will Overcome Setbacks
Mrs. S. W. Black, a visiting guest from the Guelph Home and School Council, assured the members they were doing a good job and though they may be experiencing a temporary setback, she was confident that the association was strong enough to overcome it.

She then offered the full co-operation of the Council to give aid in any way they could to help re-establish the position of the Home and School in the community.

Cancer Drive Closes Tonight

The annual Cancer Drive in Acton is being sponsored again this year by the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary with Mrs. Robert Angell in charge.

Local homes have been blitzed by the ladies assisted by Lions Club members, Rotarians and individuals.

Fire Commission Report Shows Town of Acton Fire Loss Low

Fire chief Jack Newton reported this week that Acton has enjoyed a low fire loss during the past year according to the annual report submitted recently by the Dominion of Canada Fire Commission.

The report indicates the town with a population of 4,024 persons, had eight fires where insurance claims were listed. Total fire loss reported on these claims was \$521.

Five Year Average
It was further reported during a five year average from 1955-59, insurance claims were reported on 12 fires with an average fire loss amounting to \$11,843.

Fire chief Newton praised the work of the volunteer fire department and the citizens of the town for their valued support in keeping the fire loss down.

The total fire loss listed in the report was \$12,000,000 in the Dominion of Canada with 600 lives lost.

Fire Marshall's Report
The Ontario Fire Marshall's report showed that during the first three months of this year in Ontario, there have been 6,426 fires with a total loss of \$9,475,339. 49 killed and 94 injured.

In reporting on causes of fires, the Fire Marshall pointed out the following main causes: smokers' carelessness 47 per cent; heating equipment, 16 per cent; rubbish and trash 12 per cent; electrical wiring, 10 per cent; miscellaneous, 8 per cent; flammable liquids, 4 per cent; ashes, 3 per cent.

Gleaming Return
Everything was gleaming when students returned to school Monday after their Easter holidays.

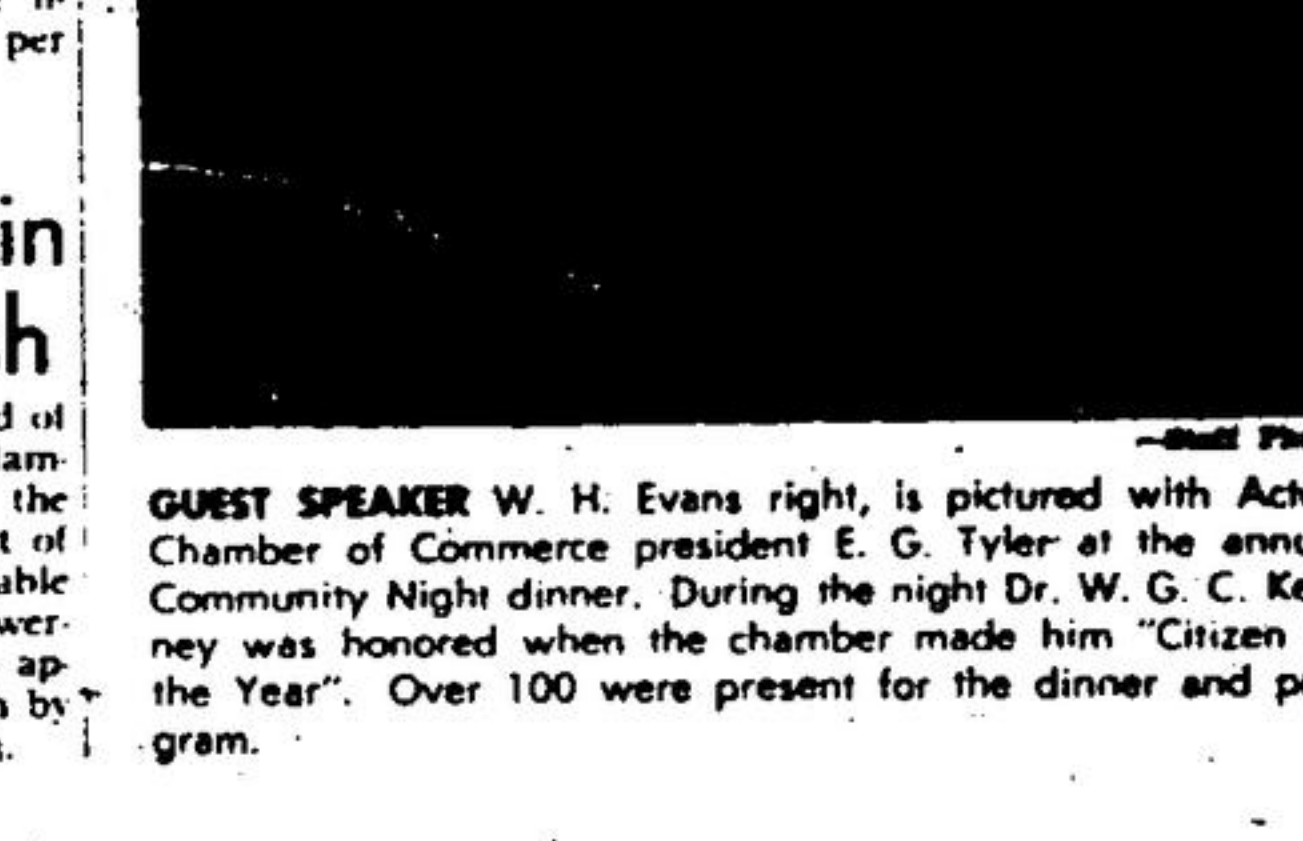
Missing was the familiar smell of fresh paint usually encountered after a holiday.

200 Damage in Truck-Car Crash

A car driven by Duncan Reid of Georgetown received \$200 damage when it swerved into the ditch on 22 sideroad just west of Highway 7 Saturday.

Constable Dave Hardy said the driver swerved into the ditch to miss an approaching pickup truck driven by William Barber, R.R. 4, Acton.

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